

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 H-02 IGA-02 /051 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ETUNIS/MDRAPER:LF

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

PM:DKEENE

H:RFLATEN

NEA/RA:COL. HOBBS

OSD/ISA:COL. SLATER

NEA:AMB. PICKERING

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P 251116Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 238327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF TOW-CONFIGURED COBRAS

REF: AMMAN 4121

1. THE LOA FOR NINE AH-IS TOW-CONFIGURED COBRAS WAS TO HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED TO CONGRESS ON AUGUST 26. IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NSC, THE DEPARTMENT DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO TAKE THIS STEP IN LIGHT OF: (A) ANTICIPATED NEGATIVE REACTION BY CONGRESS AT A MOMENT WHEN THE HAWK DEAL HAD NOT YET BEEN CONCLUDED;
(B) EVEN IF NOT DISAPPROVED, OUR DESIRE TO AVOID A REVIVAL OF THE KIND OF PROBLEM THAT ATTENDED OUR PRESENTATION OF THE HAWK/VULCAN LOA'S LAST SUMMER; (C) ITS ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER, HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL LOA'S FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, WHICH HAD TO BE DEFENDED AT ABOUT THAT TIME; AND (D) THE
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EMBASSY'S VIEWS, AS CONVEYED IN THE DATT MESSAGE TO BIN

SHAKER OF AUGUST 4 (REFTEL) THAT THIS WEAPONS SYSTEM COULD POSSIBLY BE REDUCED, ELIMINATED, OR DELAYED. IN EFFECT, THIS DECISION MEANS THAT THE LOA WILL NOT BE PRESENTED DURING THE PRESENT CONGRESS. BOTH A AND B WE JUDGED

WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE HARMFUL TO RELATIONS WITH JORDAN THAN A 4-MONTH DELAY.

2. AMBASSADOR PICKERING WAS NOTIFIED OF THIS DECISION AND AGREED WITH OUR REASONING.

3. YOU SHOULD INFORM HUSSEIN AND BIN SHAKER WHAT WE DID, EXPLAINING THAT THE U.S. HAD INITIALLY BEEN PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE LOA'S BUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO DELAY THE MATTER, DRAWING ON RATIONALE GIVEN PARA. 1 (A)(B)(C). PLEASE ALSO EXPLAIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT STILL INTENDS TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS LOA AND PLANS TO DO SO AFTER CONGRESS CONVENES FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. AS A RESULT, DOD IS NOT PLACING THIS SUBJECT ON THE JMC MEETING AGENDA AND WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DISCUSS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE MEETING. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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